

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested on the basis of the following particulars.

1. Interview of December 19, 2006

The applicants are appreciative of the opportunity to discuss the pending application with the examiner on December 19, 2006. During the interview, the subject matter of the pending claims and a proposed amendment to the claims were discussed.

The examiner indicated that the proposed changes, in addition to replacing "adapted to" with --configured to--, overcomes the rejection of the claims as being indefinite or unclear.

The examiner also indicated that the claim for foreign priority and receipt of the priority documents will be acknowledged in the next Office communication.

The examiner further indicated that the objection to the abstract will be removed in the next Office communication.

2. Claim for foreign priority

The applicant respectfully requests that the examiner acknowledge the claim for priority and receipt of the foreign priority documents submitted under 35 U.S.C. § 119.

3. Objection to the abstract

Reconsideration and removal of this rejection is respectfully requested, on the basis that the abstract complies with all of the formal requirements, and as was agreed in the interview of December 19, 2006.

Accordingly, removal of this objection is respectfully requested.

4. In the claims

As shown in the foregoing AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS, the claims have been amended to more clearly point out the subject matter for which protection is sought.

A. Claim amendments

Claims 1, 4, 5-11, 14, 15, and 20-22 are amended to replace the phrase "adapted to" with the phrase "configured to," as suggested by the examiner during the interview of December 19, 2006. The applicant believes these phrases to be of the same scope, therefore, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

Claim 1 is amended to recite the connecting phrase "comprising" instead of the term "wherein," and to recited the other "of the guided portion or the guide hole" to clarify the structural relationship. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added, since the changes correct minor informalities.

Claims 10 and 13 are amended to recite the connecting phrase "further comprising" instead of the term "wherein." It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added, since the changes correct minor informalities.

Claim 14 is amended to recite "an inherent" restoring force in place of "its own." It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added, since the change corrects a minor informality.

Claims 2, 3, 11, 12, and 16-19 are left unchanged.

Entry of the AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS is respectfully requested in the next Office communication.

B. Rejection of claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested, in view of the amendments above, and in view of the interview of December 19, 2006, on the basis that the claims are clear and definite.

Accordingly withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

5. Allowable subject matter

The applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-22. Accordingly, the claims have been amended, as discussed above, to overcome the rejection for indefiniteness. Thus, it is believed that all of the pending claims are now in proper form for allowance.

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Examiner: Wilson, Lee D.  
Art Unit: 3723

6. Conclusion

As a result of the amendment to the claims, and further in view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that every pending claim in the present application be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the applicants' attorney, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown below.

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Date: December 28, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justin J. Cassell', written over a horizontal line.

JUSTIN J. CASSELL  
Attorney for Applicants  
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